

STAT

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE E-3WASHINGTON POST
23 July 1985

Personalities

By Chuck Conconi
Washington Post Staff Writer

George Washington on Espionage

George Washington may have been the father of our country and a man who couldn't tell a lie, but he understood espionage and deception. In fact, he wrote a letter on Sept. 24, 1779, to Maj. Tallmadge, the head of his Continental Secret Service, offering a number of ideas on furtive ways to pass on intelligence that would escape detection by the British.

Publisher/collector Malcolm Forbes, who is probably the greatest collector since William Randolph Hearst, recently purchased that letter for the Forbes Magazine Collection in New York, where it is on display. When he comes to tonight's White House dinner honoring Chinese President Li Xian-nian, however, he will present facsimiles of Washington's letter to CIA Director William Casey and to FBI Director William Webster.

Forbes said he isn't too certain how useful Washington's suggestions on running covert operations during the Revolutionary War will be today, but added, "I am sure Messrs. Casey and Webster will be reassured to know that our first president was the progenitor of their present activities."